The Brethren Evangelist

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT
The Brethren Publishing House,
A. L. GARBER, Manager.
ASHLAND, OHIO.

J. W. BEER,
E. L. YODER,
E. MASON,
J. D. McFADEN, } Editorial Writers.
JOSIAH KEIM, Corresponding Editor.

Terms of Subscription.

One Copy one year,	1.50
One Copy six month,	.75
One Copy four months,	.50

Send Money by Express, Postal Money Order, Draft, or Registered Letter, payable to the order of A. L. Garber. One and 2-cent stamps will be accepted for sums under one dollar only; we much prefer Postal Notes to stamps, but both are at the risk of the sender. **Do not send cash in an unregistered letter.**

YOUR CREDIT MARK.

Examine the date printed on your paper with your name, and when you time is out please renew. **A change of the date is a sufficient receipt for subscriptions,** and if the date is not changed in two weeks after payment is made, notify us of the error it is your credit mark. ADDRESS,

THE BRETHREN PUB. HOUSE,
ASHLAND, Ashland Co., OHIO

ASHLAND COLLEGE SUBSCRIPTIONS can be sent to this office, and the proper credit will be given, and due acknowledgements made.

ASHLAND, Ohio, May 29, 1889.

An Address to the Churches.

It seems hardly possible that another harvest season for gathering souls into the fold of Christ is over. Souls will still be gathered, but it is meant that the favorable season of the year for special work in the vineyard of the Master is at an end until the harvest of the fruits of the earth is completed.

Now is the recruiting season. The conferences, conventions and gatherings designed to be preparations for greater work in the future, are now engrossing the attention of diligent brethren in the several states.

We know not what you may believe, but for ourselves, we believe the time is at hand. The Times of the Gentiles have about come in, and the closing scenes of this age will soon come upon us. Appropriately can the language of the Holy Paul be quoted: 'But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth that both they that have wives be as though they had none; and they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; and they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashions of this world passeth away.'

The signs of the times clearly show that it is not worth our while to undertake to build up an ecclesiastical system; it is not worth our while to contend about useless points of doctrine; only hold fast the things taught in the holy scriptures. We are congregational in church polity, and only gospel in doctrine. We have no hierarchy to be threatened by the liberal views of any one; no legislative body which can be undermined or weakened in its power and influence. No one is bound down by the traditions of the elders, by ecclesiastical canons, by the decretials of popes, the constitutions of conferences, the decrees of emperors, by the laws of governments, nor by the dogmas of fools—that seek to chain the conscience and prostitute speech—which shall be as dung before God in judgment, and will be destroyed by the flames of eternal burning. You are not bound by those, brethren.

'Stand fast therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. But, pray that you be not found using your liberty as an occasion for the indulgence of lust. Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death,—even death in a spiritual sense.

There is great responsibility now resting upon you. You are free. You have not received the spirit of bondage, again to fear; but you have received the spirit of adoption whereby we say Master, our Father. Church A, church B, and the remainder of you, you are congregational. Christ, the Master, is your head, the Bible is your only statute book, and as to your internal management, you are free and independent of all other congregations. Live up to your privileges. Continue steadfast in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and go forth to preach the gospel to every creature. Remember the gospel is right, and that right is always right, and wrong is always wrong, and that to presume to say there is any other power with authority to say what is right and what is wrong, is antichrist. Continue firm on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner-stone. Continue steadfast in the gospel ordinances of trine immersion which has come down to us through all the ages and is set forth in the Commission of the resurrected Christ, in the festival Supper of the Lord,—the love feast and emblems—which is the example of Christ and the teaching of the apostolic doctrines; the washing of the saints' feet, as commanded by the blessed Saviour, and as much a sacrament as baptism and the supper of the Lord; it is the symbol service of the New Commandment, to love one another as Christ loves us. Then follow after the apostolic discipline, salute the brethren with a holy kiss, be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, blasphemers, liars, and the ungodly in unholy ceremonies, political corruptionists and the vile. Be fruitful in charity, long-suffering, patience, good to the poor and the distressed, and keep unspotted from the world. Bear in mind our effort is to build up Evangelical (gospel) Christianity only, and not hierarchies, creeds, confessions, dogmas, canons, man-made disciplines, systems of decrees, rulings—but Evangelical Christianity only.

Therefore, fill yourselves full of the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and as you meet with the representatives of your sister churches of Brethren in conventions, conferences, meetings or assemblies, pray that God may guide you in preparing to do greater work and make greater sacrifice for the mission work. The great work of Evangelical Christianity is to 'Preach the gospel to every creature.'

May God so fill us all with the missionary spirit that the whole armor of God may be put on, and such a preaching of the gospel ensue as is not known in the history of the land. There is now enough of us to set this land on fire of the truth, if we are only on fire ourselves and hot. Christ would have us to be hot. Churches of the Brethren, will you make yourselves hot at the altar of God, and go out to heat up others who are dead and cold in sin?

The United Brethren Divided.

The United Brethren Church is now a Disunited Church. On the 11th day of May, twenty delegates, representing several conferences of that body and one bishop withdrew from the conference, and organized under the Old Constitution of the Church. Following this movement, a resolution was passed, declaring the seats of the delegates who withdrew, vacant, and that they were no longer ministers and members of the United Brethren Church. This is a repetition of the events of Arnold's Grove, in Indiana, in some comparisons. Those who withdrew from that conference or annual meeting, did it upon the claim that the body had departed from the example and practices of the church before. The United Brethren who separated from the main body did so upon the claim that the Constitution was illegally changed—that they had departed from the early usages of the church. The main point at issue was the Secret Society question. The division is now an accomplished fact, and there is one more religious denomination in the United States.

The United Brethren Church originated in 1773 or 1774, in Pennsylvania, and it is therefore now but over a hundred years old. The membership is a little more than 200,000, and between ten and twenty thousand will withdraw from the church and abide with those who hold to the old confession of faith.

But let the line of thought turn away from division. We have had our trials and troubles, persecutions and afflictions. The ties of friendship and affection have been torn asunder and many hearts racked with pain. The tongue of slander has been wearies in the constancy of its engagement, and wounds made that only death can remove.

As security against a repetition of such times of woe, sorrow, affliction, faintness of heart and laceration of feeling, we chose the Gospel only as our rule of faith and practice, and declared for Congregational church government. It is far less painful to have one congregation to divide, than to rend asunder a whole brotherhood.

May God strengthen us to abide by the high position taken—continue to firmly stand upon the platform of the Gospel as a Confession of faith and Congregational rule in the brotherhood—each church to be independent of all other churches as to its internal affairs.

A Time of Trouble.

Near the end of this age, Michael, the great prince will stand up for the children of thy people, and there shall be a time of trouble, such that never was since their was a nation. This is prophecy found in Daniel. It is inspired as any other part of God's word, and it was written to inspire and encourage the saints of the last days. The signs of the times plainly show that we are living under the sixth vial of Rev. 16:13. The god of the earth is spreading himself all through the religious world and while the nations are groaning with distress he is whispering 'peace' 'peace' and Protestantism is contaminated with his insideous substance which drops as a trap falls upon the ensnared animal.

The flesh is rotting off of the spiritual skeleton and the churches of the age are full of nasty sores—hypocrisy, deceit, envy, hatred, and is walking full of mammon worshippers, whoremongers, liars, hypocrites, dishonest men, until the name of church has become a mark. Men, stuffed with deceit and damnable idolatries are walking under Christian banners on the broad way to hell, while they contend about religious dogmas. Others are shouting against the study of these prophecies which are inspired by the Holy Ghost, are the words of Christ himself, who both declare that whosoever take away therefrom shall be deprived of eternal life, and the plagues shall be added to their portion.

Spiritualism, the teaching of one of the frogs has invaded the church and filled it with her accursed doctrine. The resurrection of the dead is practically denied, and the fact of His coming is hooted down as a cracked-brain figment.

Crime is rampart in all parts of the land, and the courts of nations created for the purpose of upholding justice and punishing evil doers is prostituted to the protection of murderers, adultery, theft and robbery. Nations are groaning under the weight of their military ordinance, amidst a mixture of distress and alarm, and unexpectedly as a blaze of forked lightning the hounds of war will be turned loose.

Communism in this country and Europe is unfurling its blood-red banner in defiance of authority and virtuous government and rallying its forces for the great contest against Michael. The churches are dividing and subdividing upon questions of no practical importance, and thus attention is drawn from the legitimate sphere it should act in, and the line of demarkation between it and the world is totally torn down. Pretence and profession is put up for godliness, and self-righteousness and pomposity replace the meek and quiet spirit. Trouble, trouble, trouble is the drama now on the stage of life. But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved.

O ye follower of the Lord, are you walking in the gospel way? Are you a witness against the folly, corruption and church crime of these times of trouble? God help you that you may be; to have true bravery so like a prophet of old you may warn the people.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A widow in Kentucky recently lost over three hundred dollars in a lawsuit over a goose. If some people had a little more grace, they would have more money and more honor too.

A sermon on church unity, after going almost across the continent twice, reaches us. We suppose it was sent us for publication, and so will be by and by. We are in favor of church unity, and always was. We met other men who were ostensibly in favor thereof also. We tested them, and in almost every case, found them tied by pledges of loyalty or otherwise, to dogmas, creeds, confessions, or some other binder which held them fast. We are making no effort to build up denominational walls, as loyalty to Christ demands our whole soul, mind and strength, and we have no time to devote or money to spend in building up the walls of other denominations who teach that a man's will is greater than God, that it shall decide how he shall, be baptized and what ordinances he shall or shall not obey, as against the plain teaching of the Word.

Last week was a great week for religious associations, conferences, assemblies and conventions, and a vast amount of church legislation was accomplished.

A terrible apostacy will take place in the closing days of this age. Christians shall become lukewarm, consider themselves as clothed with garments of righteousness and lack nothing. The line of division between the world, the flesh and the devil will be obliterated. Miracles will be performed by the apostate leaders, and MYSTERY will be the halo that will surround the operations of those who administer in the temples dedicated to the service of God. *Mystery, Mystery*, beware of mystery. Be on your guard against it and have nothing to do with the unclean thing.

A true Christian hero's life now graces the pages of present history. His name is Father Damien. He died with leprosy. He is the devoted priest who, sixteen years ago, went to Hawaii, and voluntarily took up his abode in the leper colony at Kalawoo that he might minister to the wants of the sufferers, and, if possible, reclaim them from the drunkenness and vice to which they were addicted. He was warned that if he went he would not be allowed to leave the island as he would inevitably contract the disease. This did not deter him, and he has since lived on the island. The white residents of Honolulu, chiefly Protestants, were so impressed with his heroic self-sacrifice that they subscribed a fund to buy lumber with which to erect a hut for him, and about $120 to purchase other necessaries. He adopted such precautions as he could to avoid taking the disease, though he knew that, sooner or later, he would fall a victim. No symptoms appeared until four years ago, when he wrote to a friend that he had detected the fatal microbes in one of his legs. He died on April 10th at the age of forty-nine. There are now about fifteen hundred lepers on the island. During Father Damien's residence on the island he had attended over two thousand death-beds.

To Pleasant Hill and Ohio S. S.

Before another paper arrives at the homes of some, the Ohio Missionary and S. S. Convention will be convened at Pleasant Hill, Ohio. Pleasant Hill lies between Covington, Ohio, and Ludlow Falls. Bro. R. E. C. Rench, Pleasant Hill, Ohio, has requested all who are coming, to write to him and say whether they will be at Covington or Ludlow Falls, so that if they fail to make connection at either of the places, they can be met and taken to the place of meeting. A north and south railroad runs from Ludlow Falls, through Pleasant Hill to Covington and on north. Connections can be secured for one of these two stations, at Dayton, Springfield and Urbana. The Dayton and Toledo R. R., runs through Ludlow Falls, Pleasant Hill and Covington. The Chicago, St. Louis and Pittsburg through Covington and Urbana, and the Indiana, Bloomington and Western through Springfield and Ludlow Falls, from Columbus, Ohio.

Take Notice.

In pursuance of the request of several members of the Board of Trustees of Ashland University, notice is hereby given to the members of said Board of Trustees of a meeting of said Board on Friday, June 7th, 1889, at Pleasant Hill, Ohio. The meeting of the Board will be held sometime between the sessions of the Brethren's convention of Ohio, which is in session during this time. Important College business will be considered.

J. A. MILLER,
Sec., B. of T. of A. U.

May 21, 1889.